

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add Claim 25 as indicated below.

Please amend Claims 1-3, 6, 10-16, 18-20, and 22-23, as indicated below.

Please cancel Claim 24 without prejudice.

A complete listing of all claims is presented below with insertions underlined (e.g., insertion), and deletions struckthrough or in double brackets (e.g., ~~deletion~~ or [[deletion]]):

1. (Currently Amended) A method of selecting user-preferred programs from a plurality of programs, comprising:

accessing a first database that includes program information describing the plurality of programs through program attributes;

obtaining user-defined criteria for identifying preferred program attributes and non-preferred program attributes; and

sorting through the first database using the user-defined criteria to ~~determine a program~~select programs, the program attributes of each selected program having program attributes that include the preferred program attributes and not having exclude the non-preferred program attributes.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising presenting the ~~program~~selected programs to the user for selection.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising recording at least one of the program~~selected programs~~ for deferred selection by the user.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving a user input to modify the user-defined criteria.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said sorting involves applying a logical AND and a logical NOT to the program attributes.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the program attributes of each program comprise at least one program attribute and the user-defined attributes are selected from a group that includes channel of the program, actor of the program, director of the program, title of the program, genre of the program, language of the program, critical rating of the program, callsign of the program, play content of the program, maturity rating of the program, multi-part format of the program, and seasonal content of the program.

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7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising repeatedly sorting through the first database.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising updating the program information of the first database.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising repeatedly sorting through the first database including updated program information.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the user-defined attributescriteria are obtained from a second database.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein the second database stores multiple sets of user-defined attributescriteria for multiple users.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein the second database stores multiple sets of user-defined attributescriteria for a user.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the user-defined attributescriteria are obtained from an input device under control of the user.

14. (Currently Amended) An audio/video apparatus for selecting programs from a plurality of programs, comprising:

a memory to receive and to store program information describing ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of programs through program attributes;

a source of user-defined criteria, wherein the user-defined criteria identify preferred program attributes and non-preferred program attributes; and

a preference module configured to sort through the program information to ~~determine a program~~ select programs, the program attributes of each selected program having ~~program attributes that include~~ the preferred program attributes and not having ~~exclude~~ the non-preferred program attributes.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising a graphical user interface for presenting the ~~program~~ selected programs to a user for further selection by the user.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the graphical user interface is configured to receive a user input to modify the user-defined attributescriteria.

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17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the graphical user interface is configured to receive a user input to further select the program at least one of the selected programs.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising a storage device configured to record the program at least one of the selected programs for deferred selection by a user.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the preference module is configured to further select at least one of the selected programs for automatic recording and to initiate automatic recording of the program determined selected by the preference module.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the preference module is configured to further select at least one of the selected programs for recording and to initiate recording of the program selected by the preference module in response to user input upon the user selecting the program determined by the preference module.

21. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the preference module applies a logical AND and a logical NOT to the program attributes.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the user-defined attributes and the program attributes of each program comprise at least one program attribute are selected from a group including channel of the program, actor of the program, director of the program, title of the program, genre of the program, language of the program, critical rating of the program, callsign of the program, play content of the program, maturity rating of the program, multi-part format of the program, and seasonal content of the program.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of selecting programs from a plurality of programs, comprising:

accessing a first database that includes program information describing the plurality of programs through program attributes;

obtaining user-defined criteria for identifying preferred program attributes and non-preferred program attributes;

comparing the program attributes of at least one a program of the plurality of programs to the preferred program attributes;

comparing the program attributes of at least one the program of the plurality of programs to the non-preferred program attributes; and

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~~identifying a~~ selecting the program of the plurality of programs, ~~the program~~
having if the program attributes ~~[[that]]~~ of the program include the preferred program
attributes and ~~that excluded~~ do not include the non-preferred program attributes.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) A method of selecting programs from a plurality of programs, comprising:
accessing a first database that includes program information regarding the
plurality of programs, each program having one or more program attributes which
describe the program;

obtaining user-defined criteria which define a user's viewing interests, the
viewing interests expressed as at least one required program attribute and at least one
barred program attribute, the required program attribute corresponding to an attribute
which a program must have in order that the program be of interest to the user, the barred
program attribute corresponding to an attribute which a program must not have in order
that the program be of interest to the user; and

identifying a selected set of programs of interest to the user, each program of the
selected set of programs having the required program attribute and not having the barred
program attribute.
